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1986 Atlantic Salmon Fishing Regulations

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MAINE ATLANTIC SEA RUN SALMON COMMISSION



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1986 ATLANTIC SALMON FISHING REGULATIONS

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1986

THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS PERTAIN TO
ATLANTIC SEA RUN SALMON ONLY

(Note under General regulations)

GENERAL SEASONS

Tidal waters — May 1 through October 15

Inland waters — May 1 through September 15. See exceptions marked with an asterisk (*) under individual waters.

SIZE AND BAG LIMITS

Daily bag limit (tidal and inland waters) — 1 Atlantic salmon

Possession limit — 2 Atlantic salmon

Season limit — 5 Atlantic salmon. (See exceptions for St. Croix and Penobscot Rivers.)

Minimum length limit (tidal and inland waters) — 14 inches

Maximum length limit (tidal and inland waters): see individual regulations pertaining to the St. Croix and Penobscot Rivers

ATLANTIC SALMON LICENSE

A license is required to fish for Atlantic Salmon in all inland waters and in the following sections of coastal waters:

St. Croix River: above the International Bridge in Calais.

Dennys River: above the U.S. Rt. #1 bridge in Dennysville.

East Machias River: above a line extending from Simpson's Wharf in East Machias due south to the opposite shore on the rim.

Machias River: above Rim Bridge (lower most bridge) in Machiasport-East Machias.

Pleasant River: above the main river bridge in Addison. *closed to fishing

Narraguagus River: above the U.S. Rt. #1A bridge in Milbridge.

Union River: above a line extending from the southern extremity of Ellsworth City boat launch ramp due west to the opposite shore.

Penobscot River: above Joshua Chamberlain Bridge in Bangor.

Ducktrap River: above 2 red posts set on the shores approximately 1,000 feet below the U.S. Rt. #1 bridge in Lincolnville.

Sheepscot River: above the U.S. Rt. #1 Bridge in Wiscasset-Edgecomb.

Kennebec River: above the Route #197 bridge in Richmond-Dresden.

Saco River: above a line extending from the outer extremity of the Camp Ellis breakwater in Saco to the outer extremity of the Hills Beach breakwater in Biddeford.

The license fees are: \$10 for **any** resident and \$30.00 for **any** non-resident. It is unlawful for any person to purchase for his own use, more than one Atlantic salmon license in any single calendar year. Immediately after issuance of an Atlantic salmon license, the purchaser must sign it in the space provided — an unsigned license is considered invalid. Licenses may be purchased from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Augusta or from city clerks and license agents in the vicinity of Atlantic salmon rivers.

Note: The Salmon License is required in addition to a regular fishing license in all inland waters.

Members of Maine's Indian Tribes and Maine residents under 16 years of age are exempt from any fee.

When fishing in inland waters, the holder of a license shall be subject to all the provisions of 12 MRSA, Chapters 701 to 721.

TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

Any Atlantic salmon taken from inland waters or coastal waters where a license is required must be immediately tagged with a tag bearing the license number of the person who caught the fish. Five of these tags will be issued with each Atlantic salmon license.

ATLANTIC SALMON: POSSESSION, BUYING OR SELLING

It is unlawful for any person to possess, buy or sell an Atlantic Salmon unless each fish is clearly identified by one of the following methods:

- A. Tagged with an Atlantic salmon tag provided by the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission if caught in Maine waters;
- B. Tagged with a New Brunswick Atlantic salmon tag if imported from New Brunswick;
- C. Identified by a sales receipt less than 24 hours old; or
- D. For wholesale and retail seafood dealers, a bill of sale indicating numbers of fish purchased, dates of purchase and point of origin of all fish purchased.

Exceptions: Those persons and individuals licensed for the aquaculture of Atlantic salmon shall be exempt from this section other than they shall report to the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission the number, weight and locations sold to, of all Atlantic salmon within the commission's jurisdiction.

DEFINITIONS

Commission means Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission.

Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) means the anadromous finfish commonly called Atlantic Sea Run Salmon.

Fishing With Rod and Line means fishing with rod and line with an artificial lure, fly, or single baited hook attached thereto.

Fly Fishing means to cast upon water and retrieve in the usual and ordinary manner, an unbaited, unweighted, artificial fly attached to a line to which no extra weight has been added.

Fly, for Atlantic salmon fishing purposes, means an unbaited single pointed hook of any size, or a double pointed hook not larger than #6, dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, or any similar material to which no additional weight, hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.

Jigging means fishing for, catching, or attempting to catch, or killing with hook or hooks manipulated in such a manner as to pierce and hook a fish in any part of the body other than the mouth. Any fish which is hooked in any part of the body other than the mouth shall be immediately released and returned alive, without further injury, to the waters from which it was taken.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to take Atlantic salmon from *inland* waters by any means other than fly fishing.

Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to take Atlantic salmon from coastal waters by any means other than rod and line.

It is unlawful to use a gaff in landing Atlantic salmon.

It is unlawful to fish for, kill, attempt to kill, or otherwise take Atlantic salmon in the inland and tidal waters of the state regulated by the Commission except as permitted by regulations of the Commission; but where no regulation has been adopted, the laws and regulations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the laws and regulations of the Department of Marine Resources shall apply.

In all waters specifically regulated by the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission, all Atlantic salmon caught at any time, by any means, of any size, and in any numbers, other than as authorized by these regulations shall be immediately released and returned alive, without further injury, to the waters from which they were taken.

Violations of regulations of the Atlantic Sea Run Salmon Commission are punishable pursuant to 12 M.R.S.A., 6204.

Note: The regulations of this folder apply *only* to the taking of Atlantic salmon. See open water fishing law folder for regulations concerning fishing near any dam which contains a fishway or trap. Check with the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for additional regulations and statutes concerning Atlantic salmon fishing.

REGULATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL WATERS

A. St. Croix River Watershed.

SEASON LIMIT: 5 Atlantic salmon; *however*, any Atlantic salmon greater than 25 inches in length must be released immediately, alive and without further injury.

B. Dennys River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Leighton Point to the outer extremity of Denbow Point, to the east side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Dennysville — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the east side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Dennysville upstream to the two markers set on the shores of the Narrows in Dennysville — ***open May 1 through October 15** to fly fishing only.

All waters above the markers at the Narrows — ***open May 1 through June 30** to fly fishing only.

C. Machias and East Machias Rivers Watersheds.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Long Point to the outer extremity of Birch Point, to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River downstream from the confluence with the East Machias River — ***open May 1 through October 15** to rod and line fishing.

From the above-mentioned red markers upstream to two red markers on the shores of the Machias River above the falls in Whitneyville; and from the above-mentioned red markers upstream to two red markers on the shores of the East Machias River at the Gaddis Mill Pool in East Machias — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

The following tributaries to, and sections of, the Machias River — ***close after July 15:**

Old Stream and its tributaries upstream from the red marker on the shore of the Machias River at the mouth of said stream.

Mopang Stream and its tributaries upstream from the red marker on the shore of the Machias River at the mouth of said stream.

Machias River, at the mouth of **Libby Brook**, from a line drawn between two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River approximately 100 feet upstream from the mouth of Libby Brook downstream approximately 300 yards to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River, this area to include Libby Brook and its tributaries. **Machias River**, at the mouth of **Crooked River**, from a line drawn between two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River approximately 100 feet upstream from the mouth of the Crooked River downstream approximately 200 yards to two red markers set on the shores of the Machias River, this area to include Crooked River and its tributaries.

All other waters of the Machias and East Machias rivers open May 1-September 15 to fly fishing only.

D. Pleasant and Narraguagus Rivers Watersheds.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Petit Manan Point to the outer extremity of Cape Split, to the south side of the Addison bridge on the Pleasant River, and to the south side of the U.S. Route 1A bridge in Milbridge on the Narraguagus River — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

Pleasant River and Tributaries above the main river bridge in Addison: closed to fishing.

Narraguagus River, from the south side of the U.S. Route 1A bridge in Milbridge upstream to the ice control dam in Cherryfield — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Narraguagus river open May 1-September 15 to fly fishing only.

E. Union River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the Weymouth Point to the Ellsworth/Trenton town line, to the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Ellsworth — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Ellsworth upstream to the Bangor Hydro dam in Ellsworth — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Union River — open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

F. Penobscot River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the Bayside Wharf in Northport to the Castine Light, to the downstream side of the Joshua Chamberlain bridge in Bangor, and to the downstream side of the first upstream bridge on all tributaries to the estuary of the river — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the Joshua Chamberlain bridge in Bangor upstream to the Bangor Hydro dam in Veazie — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

There shall be no size restrictions on artificial flies tied on double-pointed hooks in the tidal waters of the Penobscot River.

Kenduskeag Stream, from the downstream side of the Maine Central Railroad bridge in Bangor to the upstream side of "Six Mile Falls" in Bangor — ***closed after July 15**.

Season Limit: 5 Atlantic salmon, not more than 1 of which may be over 25 inches in length.

NOTE: Closed to fishing are the following areas:

Felts Brook: From the downstream side of Route #9 in Brewer down to the Penobscot River, and that portion of the Penobscot river on the easterly side of a straight line drawn from a red painted rock situated on the downriver side of the mouth of Felts Brook to a red painted marker on the Bangor Dam fishway situated on the upriver side of the mouth of Felts Brook.

Meadow Brook: In Bangor and the Penobscot River within a 250' radius of the Maine Central Railroad Bridge abutments at the mouth of Meadow Brook;

Eaton Brook: From the downstream side of Rt. #9 in Brewer to the Penobscot River, and the Penobscot River within 250' of a red painted marker situated on the downriver side of the mouth of Eaton Brook.

Indian Island (Eastern Shore): Penobscot River, between two red markers located 150' either side of adult salmon release site, including the area *between* imaginary lines, roughly perpendicular to the flow of the river, from the above red markers to the middle of the river.

All other waters of the Penobscot River — open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

G. Passagassawaukeag River Watershed.

All waters above the downstream side of the U.S. Route 1 bridge in Belfast — fly fishing only.

H. Ducktrap River Watershed.

All waters and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the Islesboro Ferry Landing pier in Lincolnville to the outer extremity of Spruce Head in Northport upstream to a line drawn between two red posts set on the shores approximately 1,000 feet downstream from the U.S. Route 1 bridge — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the two red posts upstream to the confluence with Black Brook — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Ducktrap River — open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

I. Sheepscot River Watershed.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from the Wiscasset/Edgecomb U.S. Route 1 bridge, to the downstream side of the Puddledock Bridge in Alna — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the Puddledock Bridge in Alna upstream to the Head Tide Dam in Alna — ***open through October 15** to fly fishing only.

All other waters of the Sheepscot River — open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

J. Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers Watersheds.

All waters and tributaries and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of Cape Small to the outer extremity of Salter Island, thence to the outer extremity of Indian Point, to the downstream side of the Maine Central railroad bridge on the Kennebec River in Augusta, and to the downstream side of the Brunswick/Topsham bridge on the Androscoggin River, including those portions of all tributaries to the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers downstream from the first upstream bridge — open May 1 through October 15 to rod and line fishing.

Bond Brook, Augusta, upstream from the red markers set on the shore of the Kennebec River at the mouth of said brook — ***closed after July 15.**

All other waters of the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers open May 1 through September 15 to fly fishing only.

K. Saco River Watershed.

All waters and adjacent coastal waters inside and upstream from a line drawn from the outer extremity of the so-called Camp Ellis rock jetty breakwater to the outer extremity of the so-called Hills beach rock jetty breakwater to the downstream side of Route 9 bridge in Biddeford-Saco — ***open May 1 through October 15** to rod and line fishing.

From the downstream side of the Route 9 bridge in Biddeford-Saco to the Central Maine Power Company dam (known as Skelton dam) at Union Falls in Dayton and Hollis — ***open May 1 through October 15** to fly fishing only.

That area between the lower York dam in Saco and two red markers located about 200 feet downstream — **Closed** to the taking of Atlantic salmon.

TIPS ON HOW TO RELEASE ATLANTIC SALMON

By carefully following these simple instructions you can release your salmon unharmed:

1. **Time is of the essence.** Play and release the salmon as quickly and carefully as possible. An exhausted salmon may be too weak to recover.
2. **Keep the salmon in water** as much as possible. A salmon out of water is suffocating and may injure itself on the rocks or beach. Even a few inches of water under a thrashing salmon acts as a protective cushion.
3. **Be gentle** when handling the salmon. Keep your fingers away from the gills. Don't squeeze the fish as it can be held securely by holding the tail and the bottom jaw area. If a net is used, be sure it is fine meshed to avoid injury to the gills and eyes.
4. **Remove the fly** with small pliers or use your thumb and forefinger to shake it loose. If the fish is bleeding profusely or injured in any way it may not survive. If the fly cannot be removed then cut the leader as close to the eye of the hook as possible.
5. **To revive the salmon** after a struggle, hold the fish by the tail and move it back and forth to circulate water through the gills. Release it after it recovers.